Get in touch
If any of our pictures bring back memories for you, let us know by emailing james.milner@reachplc.com

Mr Edward Lowe

Stretham residents will miss the well-known figure of Mr. Edward Lowe, the veteran carrier, whose death occurred at his little cottage in Berry Green, where he had resided for 28 years.

He was born in Stretham 81 years ago and, for 65 years, he carried on his business as carrier to and from Ely, having started at the age of 15.

Mr. Lowe was a regular attendee at the Baptist chapel, and was its oldest member, having attended there since the age of two years.

Changes for railway station – 1925

CERTAIN alterations are to be made in the railway station at Cambridge.

The L.N.E.R. proposes to extend the main line platforms at each end so that the whole of long trains may be accommodated.

The goods yards on the Cherry Hinton side are to be re-arranged and extended for the storage of carriages.

Up to the present, the old Newmarket line had been used but this is being handed over to Jesus College and the corporation in connection with the building of the new arterial road from Cherry Hinton to Romsey Town.

Club activities curtailed by war – 1920

THE mayor referred to old photos taken by Nicholls in the 1850s or 60s and reproduced by Messrs Palmer Clarke.

R. Starr recalled going as a lad to Hills and Saunders to carry old silver bath. The old wet-plate process was just going out then. Soon after, dry-plates came in.

Photography had developed due to war. By means of aeroplanes and the camera, they had been able to locate various enemy positions. It had been difficult to get professional photographers to combine.

W. Farren, secretary, recalled that, in pre-war days, when T. Snowden was secretary, they had a membership of over 200. This dropped during the war, and there were presently 170.

Important work was taking place at University Chemical Laboratories, in which Mr Stoakley had a very great hand, manufacturing dyes necessary for aerial photography which had previously been obtained from Germany.

Cat fatalities caused by election – 1910

DURING the last week, there has been a widespread and fatal sickness among the cats in Cottenham. Only one case has been explained as being due to pneumonia.

In others, the cause remains obscure. But it is suggested that the excitement of the General Election may have been a contributory factor.

At any rate, several households are lamenting the loss of their domestic pets and pressing for an inquiry into the nature of the malady, as the prospect of a catless community is too serious to contemplate.

Crowd awaits election result – 1910

CROWDS waited on Cambridge Market Hill for the results of the election.

As the hands of the clock dragged with exasperating slowness, the excitement grew even keener. But by half-past ten, even the cheering began to subside.

"Wish I'd brought my breakfast," said one ruby-faced gentleman whose appearance suggested that he had dined exclusively on beer.

"Blooming long time countin' up nine thawsan' votes," said a Barnwellian. Suddenly, the mayor appeared on the Guildhall balcony with the successful candidate.

"Buckie's beaten" was the sentence spoken half unconsciously by scores of Buckmaster's supporters as if the brain refused to grasp the significance of what the eye could see.

Trumpeters at the Assize at Cambridge

Trumpeters get fair hearing – 1905

A SERIOUS charge has been brought against the trumpeters who, on the occasion of the Assize at Cambridge, blow a fanfare as the judge steps from his carriage at the Shire Hall.

They are accused of being unable to keep in tune and wailing as diversely as any pair of cats.

I would not undertake to estimate their ability as musicians, but as a sort of variety turn, they certainly take a high place.

But the learned judge expressed himself highly pleased with the way they performed their duties.

Fire service could get a new engine

Fire steam engine discussed – 1904

CAMBRIDGE councillors considered the purchase of a steam fire engine.

The two fires at Addenbrooke's Hospital and Fitzroy Street were bad, but took place under favourable conditions – in the first, the wind took the flames away from the hospital and, in the other, there was a brick wall, instead of lathe and plaster.

Since then, there had been two other fires, in Sidney Street and Rose Crescent, which might have resulted disastrously. In the centre of town, whole blocks of buildings might be burnt down.

The only additional expenditure would be the cost of an engineer. But the Fire Brigade did not want one and they ought to know more than councillors.

Keep up to date with the past

- Read Mike Petty's Cambridgeshire Scrapbook to search for other stories.
- Join Fenland History on Facebook to share your photos and information.
- Follow James Milner on Twitter to receive regular updates each weekend.
- Take a trip down Memory Lane to search for, share and colourise photos.
- Subscribe to Mike Petty's YouTube channel to listen to some of this talks.

goodmove
We buy any house!
Rated 4.9/5 stars on Reviews.co.uk
WE BUY HOUSES FOR CASH
Sell in days – or in your timescale
No fees & no obligation
Any condition or location
NAPB approved & RICS regulated
GET UP TO £30,000 CASH ADVANCE
BEST PRICE PAID
Call us FREE today for a cash offer available 24/7
0800 031 9071
goodhousemove.co.uk
RICS
napb
The Property Ombudsman